

USS *John S McCain* collides with merchant ship

The guided-missile destroyer USS *John S McCain* (DDG 56) has arrived at Changi Naval Base following a collision with the merchant vessel *Alnic MC* while underway east of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore on 21 August.

The collision was reported at 0624 Japan Standard Time. Significant damage to the hull resulted in flooding to nearby compartments, including crew berthing, machinery, and communications rooms. Damage control efforts by the crew halted further flooding.

There are currently ten Sailors missing and five injured. Four of the injured were medically evacuated by a Singapore Armed Forces helicopter to a hospital in Singapore for non-life threatening injuries. The fifth injured Sailor does not require further medical attention.

Search and rescue efforts continue in coordination with local authorities. The Republic of Singapore Fearless-class patrol ships RSS *Gallant* (97), RSS *Resilience* (82), and Singaporean Police Coast Guard vessel *Basking Shark* (55) are in the area rendering assistance.

Additionally, MH-60S helicopters and MV-22 Ospreys from the amphibious assault ship USS *America* (LHA 6) are in the area providing search and rescue assistance.

Alnic MC is a Liberian-flagged 600-foot oil and chemical tanker with a gross tonnage of 30,000.

The incident will be investigated, USN sources report.

This material is based on information received from US 7th Fleet Public Affairs, posted from Changi Naval Base, Singapore 21 August 0342 (EDT).

Picture caption

Official US Navy file photo of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain (DDG 56).

Photo: USN ©